

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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R 061610Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6095
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS COMMERCE, NOAA/WALLACE, NMFS/BLONDIN

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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, NEAFC
SUBJ: SECOND WEEK - DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL
COOPERATION IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, LONDON
FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 3, 1978

REF : LONDON 3106

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: 1. SUMMARY. NEGOTIATIONS TO CREATE A NEW NEAFC COMPLETELY COLLAPSED ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SCHEDULED CONFERENCE. THE VOTING ISSUE (SEE REFTTEL) AND A LAST MINUTE REFUSAL OF THE EAST-BLOC COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THE EC AS THE SIGNATORY FOR THE EC MEMBERS TO THE NEW CONVENTION PRECIPITATED THE COLLAPSE. THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCE IS THAT THE WATERS BEYOND THE 200-MILE JURISDICTION OF THE MEMBER STATES ARE NOW UNPROTECTED AND WILL THUS BE OPEN TO THE FISHING VESSELS OF ANY NATION. AT ONE POINT DURING THE LAST FEW HOURS OF THE CONFERENCE THE EC DELEGATE BRIEFLY ALLUDED TO FORMING A NEW FISHERIES ORGANIZATION, PRESUMABLY MINUS THE EAST-BLOC COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEAFC CONFERENCE BEGAN THE SECOND WEEK STILL WORKING ON ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE ON THE VOTING ISSUE. THE EC AND EAST-BLOC COUNTRIES HAD OPPOSING POSITIONS -- THE EC FAVORING A WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM AND THE EAST-BLOC OPTING FOR ONE VOTE/ONE COUNTRY. SEVERAL DELEGATES INTRODUCED PROPOSALS WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD FIND ACCEPTANCE. THESE PROPOSALS GENERALLY WERE SOME MODIFICATION OF A WEIGHTED VOTE AND AFTER BEING DISCUSSED WERE DISCARDED. BY THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK THE CHAIRMAN BEGAN INFORMAL, PERSONAL TALKS WITH DELEGATES TO DETERMINE IF SOME NEW UNEXPLORED FORMULA MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL DELEGATES. AFTER TWO DAYS OF THE OFF-THE-RECORD TALKS CHAIRMAN CARDOSA ADMITTED NO VIABLE COMPROMISE WAS DISCOVERED.

3. LATE THURSDAY EVENING IT APPEARED A BREAKTHROUGH MIGHT APPEAR WHEN THE EC DROPPED THEIR DEMAND FOR A WEIGHTED VOTE. AT THE SAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME THE EC DELEGATE STIPULATED THAT A BRACKETED PORTION OF ARTICLE 20 BE RETAINED. THE BRACKETED PORTION IN QUESTION WOULD HAVE PERMITTED THE EC TO SIGN THE NEW CONVENTION ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBER STATES. FOLLOWING A BRIEF ADJOURNMENT THE CONFERENCE RESUMED WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATE MAKING A STATEMENT THAT THE BRACKETED PORTION OF ARTICLE 20 WOULD HAVE TO BE DELETED. THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT WITH THE FERVENT PLEA THAT AN OVERNIGHT SOLUTION BE FOUND FOR THIS LATEST OBSTACLE.

4. ON FRIDAY AFTER THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE HAD SMOOTHED OUT THE LANGUAGE IN SOME OF THE LESS CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES, THE CHAIRMAN CONVENED THE PLENARY. THE SOVIET DELEGATION AGAIN EXPRESSED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE BRACKETED PROVISION IN ARTICLE 20 STATING UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT HE COULD NOT APPROVE THE CONVENTION IF IT WAS RETAINED. THE EC COUNTERED BY SAYING THE CLAUSE PERMITTING THE EC TO SIGN THE CONVENTION WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. THUS AN UNSOLVABLE IMPASSE WAS REACHED AND THE CONFERENCE WAS FORCED TO A FINAL ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT A NEW CONVENTION, IRONICALLY NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DISAGREEMENT OVER FISHERY POLICY BUT OVER A PURELY POLITICAL ISSUE. 5. THE CHAIRMAN HAS REMAINED IN LONDON FOR A FEW DAYS TO PREPARE HIS REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE. THIS WILL BE ITS ONLY WRITTEN RECORD. LONDON PLEASE OBTAIN A COPY OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM MAFF OR MRS. SMALL OF NEAFC OFFICE FOR RFA COPENHAGEN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: 6. COMMENT. IN RETROSPECT, IT APPEARS THAT THE EAST-BLOC DELEGATIONS ARRIVED AT THIS CONFERENCE WITH THE INTENTION OF SCUTTling THE NEW CONVENTION SHOULD THE EC INSIST ON MAINTAINING ITS ECONOMIC ENTITY VIS A VIS ITS MEMBER STATES. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET DELEGATE IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT WARNED THAT WHILE HIS DELEGATION DID NOT OBJECT TO THE EC'S PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE, THIS PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT CREATE FOR THE SOVIETS ANY OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY. CONVERSELY, THE EC DELEGATE ASSUMED HIS POSITION AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEMBER STATES ON OPENING DAY AND DID NOT WAVER FROM THIS POSITION AT ANY TIME DURING THE CONFERENCE. THUS THE ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAVE CLEARLY BEEN REINFORCED AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE. IT NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, THE RESULTS OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL HAVE ON ANY FUTURE BILATERAL FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE EAST-BLOC. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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